



FILIPINO-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION  
1010 Mission Street, Suite B  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Phone: (415) 348-8042  
Fax: (415) 974.0349  
Website: fadf-sf.org

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker Emerita of the House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

As the Executive Director of the Filipino American Development Foundation, I am writing in strong support of the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy and its FY24 Community Project Funding request to renovate the playground located in the Yerba Buena Gardens. The funds would make the playground more accessible to children of all abilities and this block of Yerba Buena Gardens safer for all, including senior citizens and long-time Filipino residents in the South of Market (SoMa) neighborhood and in the SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District.

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*Executive Director*  
FADF

Established in 1997, the Filipino American Development Foundation (FADF) established in 1997 is a touchstone organization in the SoMa which houses a rich history of Filipino immigrants living and celebrating their culture. We have closely partnered with the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy to host the 20th Annual Philippine Parol Lantern Festival held at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. We are extremely grateful for their support in making our 20 year anniversary a success. A flagship tradition in SoMa for 20 years, the Philippine Parol Lantern Festival brought together over 2,000 Filipino American community members, artists, food vendors/local restaurants, entrepreneurs, and visitors from throughout the neighborhood, as well as community members from various schools, community-based organizations, and churches across San Francisco and the Bay Area. Held in a neighborhood historically relevant to Filipino immigrants, each year the festival carries forward the goals of the SOMA Pilipinas Filipino Cultural Heritage District – to celebrate and pass down our culture, traditions, and build community. The SOMA Pilipinas Cultural Heritage District is the only one of its kind in the State of California and in the United States, which Filipino American nonprofits, theater, and elementary to middle school programs call home.

The Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy's playground will continue our collaborative work to strengthen our neighborhood. The playground would also create a centerpiece to help build community for all ages in our neighborhood. For example, the plans are to include a lot more seating, family-friendly tables for gatherings, and spaces for multiple use recreational activities for our multi-generational Filipino community to enjoy and benefit.

The support and leadership of Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy helps us achieve our goals and ultimately directly serve our SoMa Community.

Sincerely,

Gayle Romasanta  
Executive Director



## South of Market Child Care, Inc.

790 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

415.820.3500

[www.somacc.org](http://www.somacc.org)

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker Emerita of the House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

As the Executive Director of South of Market Child Care, Inc. in San Francisco, I am writing in support of the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy and its FY24 Community Project Funding request. As a center-based childcare provider in the immediate neighborhood, I am very passionate about this request and its promise to improve the lives of families in the South-of-Market neighborhood, as well as, attract and elicit joy from visitors, tourists, and convention attendees in our beautiful city.

**Community Need:** The pandemic has been especially hard on our SOMA neighborhood, as families have left the city for various reasons during the shelter in place and beyond. The economic devastation from the drop in office workers, lack of tourism, and lay-offs in the tech industry have negatively transformed our once-vibrant neighborhood into one that is deserted and in need of support, which does not attract families, children, and tourism.

**Impact of Federal Investment:** Yerba Buena Gardens has been a national model for private-public development since the 1990's but facilities are showing their age. This one-time investment will provide much needed facility upgrades that will make the Gardens more sustainable and attractive for residents and tourist alike...and allow it to continue to shine as the San Francisco jewel it has been for 30 years.

The pandemic has shown us all how being outdoors helps with mental health. The pandemic recovery has shown us that civic spaces like Yerba Buena Gardens can bring us all together and heal.

Thank you for considering this request from Yerba Buena Gardens. A federal investment would make a huge difference in maintaining its critical role in supporting an ecosystem of small businesses, nonprofit cultural organizations, residents, tourists and Moscone Center conventions in downtown San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Jennifer De Palm  
Executive Director  
South of Market Child Care, Inc.

**Yerba Buena Gardens  
Child Development Center**

790 Folsom Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
415.820.3508

**Transbay  
Child Development Center**

220 Beale Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415.820.3565

**South of Market  
Family Resource Center**

790 Folsom Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
415.820.3508



March 12, 2023

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker Emerita of the House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

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Andy Russell  
Google for Education

Sudheer Tegulapalle  
JPMorgan Chase

Paul Wang  
Producer, Animation Film

Dear Speaker Emerita Pelosi,

As the Executive Director of the Children's Creativity Museum in San Francisco, I am writing in support of the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy and its FY24 Community Project Funding request. While museums are not eligible for funding through the House of Representatives this year, I am very enthusiastic about this request and its promise to improve the lives of residents in the South-of-Market neighborhood (including children, families, and seniors) and attract and elicit joy from visitors, tourists, and convention attendees in our beautiful city.

**Community Need:** The pandemic has been especially hard on our neighborhood as seniors and Asian American-Pacific Islanders are among the most cautious and vulnerable segments of our society. Two particularly violent and horrific hate crimes were committed in our neighborhood—one across the street from Yerba Buena Gardens. The economic devastation from the drop in office workers, lack of tourism, and lay-offs the tech industry have negatively transformed our once-vibrant neighborhood into one that is deserted and in need of support.

**Impact of Federal Investment:** Yerba Buena Gardens has been a national model for private-public development since the 1990's but facilities are showing their age. With this one-time investment, much needed upgrades can be made that will make the Gardens more sustainable and attractive...and allow it to continue to shine as the San Francisco jewel it has been for 30 years.

The pandemic has shown us all how being outdoors helps with mental health. The pandemic recovery has shown us that civic spaces like Yerba Buena Gardens can bring us all together and heal.

Thank you for considering this request from Yerba Buena Gardens. A federal investment would make a huge difference in maintaining its critical role in supporting an ecosystem of small businesses, nonprofit cultural organizations, residents, tourists and Moscone Center conventions in downtown San Francisco.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carol Tang  
Executive Director

March 13, 2023

Seve Ghose  
Executive Director  
Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy



Mr. Ghose,

The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District (YBCBD) is writing to express its support for the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy's planned upgrades to community spaces in Yerba Buena Gardens. The YBCBD is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Yerba Buena neighborhood of San Francisco with a range of services to make it safer, cleaner and more welcoming for all who live, work, and visit.

The Yerba Buena neighborhood is a unique gathering place for people across the City and beyond. Our neighborhood is home to renowned museums, convention space, public gardens and educational institutions, as well as small business, dining, shopping and local entertainment venues. Our neighborhood is also largely residential, with senior housing, apartments, residential and office lofts, family homes and condominiums. The Yerba Buena Gardens is centrally located to all the above and plays a key role in creating a sense of community in the neighborhood.

We believe the planned infrastructure upgrades to the Yerba Buena Gardens are a vitally important project to maintaining the unique character of Yerba Buena, as the Gardens provide a free recreational touchstone for San Franciscans from all walks of life. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fountain, children's playground, and other community-building features of the Gardens are hugely beneficial to enhancing equity and access to public space in a surrounding community with a 29% poverty rate, per Census Tract 178.01.

Our organization is fully supportive of the Yerba Buena Gardens Conservancy's request for federal Community Project Funds.

Sincerely,

*Scott*

Scott Rowitz  
Executive Director